

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121, please amend the specification as follows:

Please insert the following paragraph after the title on page 1:

This application is a divisional of U.S. Serial No. 10/220,862, filed August 20, 2002, which is hereby incorporated by reference and which is a U.S. national phase application of International Patent Application No. PCT/JP01/01236, filed February 21, 2001, which claims the benefit of Japanese Patent Application No. 2000/42933, filed February 21, 2000. The International Application was published in Japanese on August 23, 2001 as WO 01/60859 under PCT Article 21(2).

Replace the paragraph at page 12, lines 17-27, with the following paragraph:

The third novel protein of the present invention includes

(1) a protein comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6 in the sequence listing,

(2) a variation functionally equivalent to the protein (1),

(3) a protein homologous to the protein (1), and

(4) a fragment thereof [i.e., a fragment of the protein (1), the variation (2), or the homologous protein (3)]. A protein consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6 in the sequence listing, or a variation functionally equivalent or protein homologous thereto are preferred.

Replace the paragraph spanning from page 14, line 27, to page 15, line 2, with the following paragraph:

The gene consisting of the 56th to 304th bases in the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 in the sequence listing encodes the protein consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6 in the sequence listing. Further, the gene consisting of the 56th to 304th bases in the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 in the sequence listing is not expressed in healthy persons, but is expressed in patients suffering from a bacterial infection.

Replace the paragraph at page 15, lines 3-22, with the following paragraph:

The third probe of the present invention is not particularly limited, so long as it is capable of specifically hybridizing to an mRNA consisting of the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 in the sequencing listing. As the probe, there may be mentioned, for example, a single or double stranded polynucleotide consisting of a base sequence complementary to that of SEQ ID NO: 5 in the sequence listing, or a partial base sequence thereof. The lower limit of the number of bases in the third probe of the present invention is not particularly limited, but is preferably 18 or more, more particularly 26 or more, most particularly 41 or more. Further, the upper limit thereof is not particularly limited, but is preferably 652 or less. The expression "specifically hybridize with an mRNA consisting of the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 in the sequence listing" as used herein means that a polynucleotide does not hybridize with mRNAs derived from a healthy person, but will hybridize with the mRNA consisting of the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 in the sequence listing, under the conditions described in Example 1 (4).